

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 10 Sept 2018 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

1. PRESENT- Mr P. Mortimer, Chairman, Mr P. Schwier, Mr T. Godbold. Mr C. Osborne, Mrs S. Hatchman. Mr P. Twiss, Mrs J Dowsett, Mrs C. Pryce

District Councillor Lavinia Hadingham

APOLOGIES – Mrs D. Fowler

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3. MINUTES – The minutes for the meeting held on Monday 9th July 2018 were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The tree on the triangle has now been trimmed and the grass around the goalposts has been strimmed. The Chairman said that the trees on the Meadow will be pruned when the leaves have fallen.

The mending of the Cemetery gates is underway.

The Beacon will need to be re-sited. The Clerk will contact Tim Mellors and Mr Schwier will liaise with Mrs Pryce to arrange for the post to be planted.

5. REPORT - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LAVINIA HADINGHAM

100 acres near the A14 junction 50, east of Stowmarket, is earmarked for employment development land. This will happen over the next 10 years and create opportunities for local businesses to be involved in both construction and creating business space and jobs.

There is funding available for improving shop fronts in Market towns. £350,000 has been put aside for this.

The Foyer in Stowmarket is being reopened to house vulnerable people and families while being assessed for housing needs.

6. ROADS AND DRAINS

The Chairman and Clerk met with two representatives from Highways and the County Councillor. The two drainage problems, the signage by Black Poplar House and the hedge on Fressingfield Road were discussed.

There are going to be repairs to Christmas Lane in Oct/Nov requiring the road to be closed. The ditches on Christmas Lane will be worked on then and the drain to Mill Lane investigated, with a view to stopping the flooding.

Mr McGregor hopes to get a 'Road Narrows' sign to replace the existing sign and the make it more visible and neared the bottleneck.

The hedge on Fressingfield road is being dealt with by the Highways Department.

The flooding outside the village hall is on the schedule of works for 2019 but it was pointed out that flooding of properties and danger to life must take priority.

7. FINANCE

The following payments were approved.

£90 – Terry Horton – maintenance
£60 -Terry Scholey – maintenance
£320 – Mrs L J Silvester, Clerks Salary
£80 - PAYE

Metfield Parish Council

8. PLANNING – Permission has been refused for the new house on Skinners Lane.

County Councillor Guy McGregor joined the meeting.

He agreed that funding may be available for a Speed Indicator for the village. The Parish Council will have to pay for the poles and a modest donation towards the cost. It is hoped to get two poles, one each end of the village so that the sign can be moved between them.

The Clerk will write (email) him asking for the sign and agreeing to the donation.

9. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK/PROPER OFFICER

Mrs Lindsey Duckett was appointed as the new clerk. She will take over in November at the next meeting.

10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR LIGHTING OF BEACON ON 11TH NOVEMBER.

It was decided that the Beacon will be moved to Nut Tree Farm and we will take part in the National Celebrations by lighting it at 7pm and the Church bells will ring out at 7.05pm.

There will be a short ceremony before the lighting and the reading out of names.

People will be able to take nibbles and drink to share.

Further details will be given in 6th Sense (Nov edition) and on the noticeboards.

11. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

There has been an offer by a resident to refurbish the bus shelter by the church. This was readily accepted but details will be asked to be brought to the next meeting for approval.

12. CORRESPONDENCE - There were letters from the Police union expressing concerns over cuts and on the Gambling Act consultation. The Council and Clerks magazine was circulated.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Monday 12th November 2018

Meeting closed at 8.45pm